



# **Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina's Swine Flu Fact Sheet**

## **What is the swine flu virus?**

The swine flu is a different type (strain) of flu virus. It is a mix of pig, bird and human genes, which can now be passed from person to person through coughing and sneezing like a regular flu. You cannot get the swine flu from eating pork or pork products. Currently, there are no confirmed cases of the swine flu virus in Los Angeles County.



## **Is the swine flu virus dangerous?**

In the United States, the swine flu is very mild. Both the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommend that the swine flu be treated the same way as the regular flu.

## **What are the symptoms of the swine flu virus?**

The symptoms are the same as the regular flu including: fever, weakness, sore throat, cough, muscle aches and running nose.

## **How is the swine flu virus treated?**

Experts advise that persons with flu symptoms stay home, get plenty of rest, drink lots of water, take over-the-counter medications to ease symptoms, and wash hands frequently to prevent the spread of the flu. If flu symptoms persist or become more severe, a doctor should be contacted immediately to determine whether further testing is required.

## **Should I purchase penicillin or other antibiotics over the counter (Botanicas)?**

DO NOT purchase penicillin or antibiotics over the counter such as at BOTANICAS. These medications will not prevent or cure the swine flu virus. The unregulated use of these powerful drugs can cause undesirable side effects. Only a licensed medical doctor can determine and prescribe the appropriate medications for illnesses.

## **Do masks help protect from the swine flu virus?**

The DPH and CDC do not recommend the routine use of masks by the general population. Masks may be appropriate for persons caring for or living with a confirmed case of the swine flu virus. Again, there are no confirmed cases of the swine flu virus in L.A. County.

## **What is Los Angeles County doing in response to the swine flu virus?**

In response to confirmed swine flu cases in the U.S., Mexico and around the world, the County of L. A. has declared a local public health emergency. This declaration prepares the County to receive necessary Federal and State resources to respond to any local outbreaks in the future. This should not cause panic. The public is encouraged to stay calm, stay informed and take simple steps to prevent the spread of the flu.

For more information and daily updates

***Dial 2-1-1 or visit [www.lapublichealth.org](http://www.lapublichealth.org)***